What is claimed is:

1. A method of improving installation of software packages, comprising steps of:

   defining an object model representing a plurality of components of a software installation

package, wherein each component comprises a plurality of objects;

   instantiating at least one version of each of the objects, wherein a plurality of versions of

selected ones of the objects may be instantiated to reflect differing access rights which are

appropriate for potential requesters of the package; and

   storing the instantiated objects in a directory, wherein the versions of the objects are

associated with the differing access rights.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of populating the

instantiated objects with attributes and methods to describe a particular software installation

package.

3. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising steps of:

   receiving a request from a particular requester for a selected software installation package;

   determining the access rights which are appropriate for the particular requester; and

   retrieving the selected software installation package from the directory, wherein the

retrieved package is dynamically assembled from the stored objects based upon the determined

access rights.

1   4.   The method according to Claim 3, further comprising steps of:

2   authenticating the particular requester, in response to receiving the request; and

3   determining the access rights and retrieving the selected software installation package only

4 if the authentication succeeds..

1   5.   The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of installing the retrieved

2 software installation package.

1   6.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the instantiated objects are JavaBeans.

   7.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the directory is a Lightweight Directory

Access Protocol ("LDAP") directory.

   8.   A system for improving installation of software packages, comprising:

          means for defining an object model representing a plurality of components of a software

installation package, wherein each component comprises a plurality of objects;

4   means for instantiating at least one version of each of the objects, wherein a plurality of

5 versions of selected ones of the objects may be instantiated to reflect differing access rights which

6 are appropriate for potential requesters of the package; and

7   means for storing the instantiated objects in a directory, wherein the versions of the

8 objects are associated with the differing access rights.

1   9.   The system according to Claim 8, further comprising:

2   means for receiving a request from a particular requester for a selected software

3   installation package;

4   means for the determining access rights which are appropriate for the particular requester;

5   and

6   means for retrieving the selected software installation package from the directory, wherein

7   the retrieved package is dynamically assembled from the stored objects based upon the determined

8   access rights.

1   10.   A computer program product for improving installation of software packages, the

2   computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

3   computer-readable program code means for defining an object model representing a

4   plurality of components of a software installation package, wherein each component comprises a

5   plurality of objects;

6   computer-readable program code means for instantiating at least one version of each of

7   the objects, wherein a plurality of versions of selected ones of the objects may be instantiated to

8   reflect differing access rights which are appropriate for potential requesters of the package; and

9   computer-readable program code means for storing the instantiated objects in a directory,

10   wherein the versions of the objects are associated with the differing access rights.

1   11.   The computer program product according to Claim 10, further comprising:

2   computer-readable program code means for receiving a request from a particular requester

3   for a selected software installation package;

4   computer-readable program code means for the determining access rights which are

5   appropriate for the particular requester; and

6   computer-readable program code means for retrieving the selected software installation

7   package from the directory, wherein the retrieved package is dynamically assembled from the

8   stored objects based upon the determined access rights.